



# Memorandum

**TO:** MAYOR LICCARDO

**FROM:** Councilmember Donald Rocha

**SUBJECT:** BUDGET DOCUMENT

**DATE:** May 25, 2016

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Approved Don Rocha PH Date 5-25-16

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That the following recommendation be enacted.

**Proposal**

Program/Project Title: Chynoweth Ave. Pedestrian Bridge Construction Document Preparation

Amount of City Funding Required: \$150,000

Fund Type (i.e. General Fund, C&C funds, etc.): General Fund and District 9 C&C

This change is:

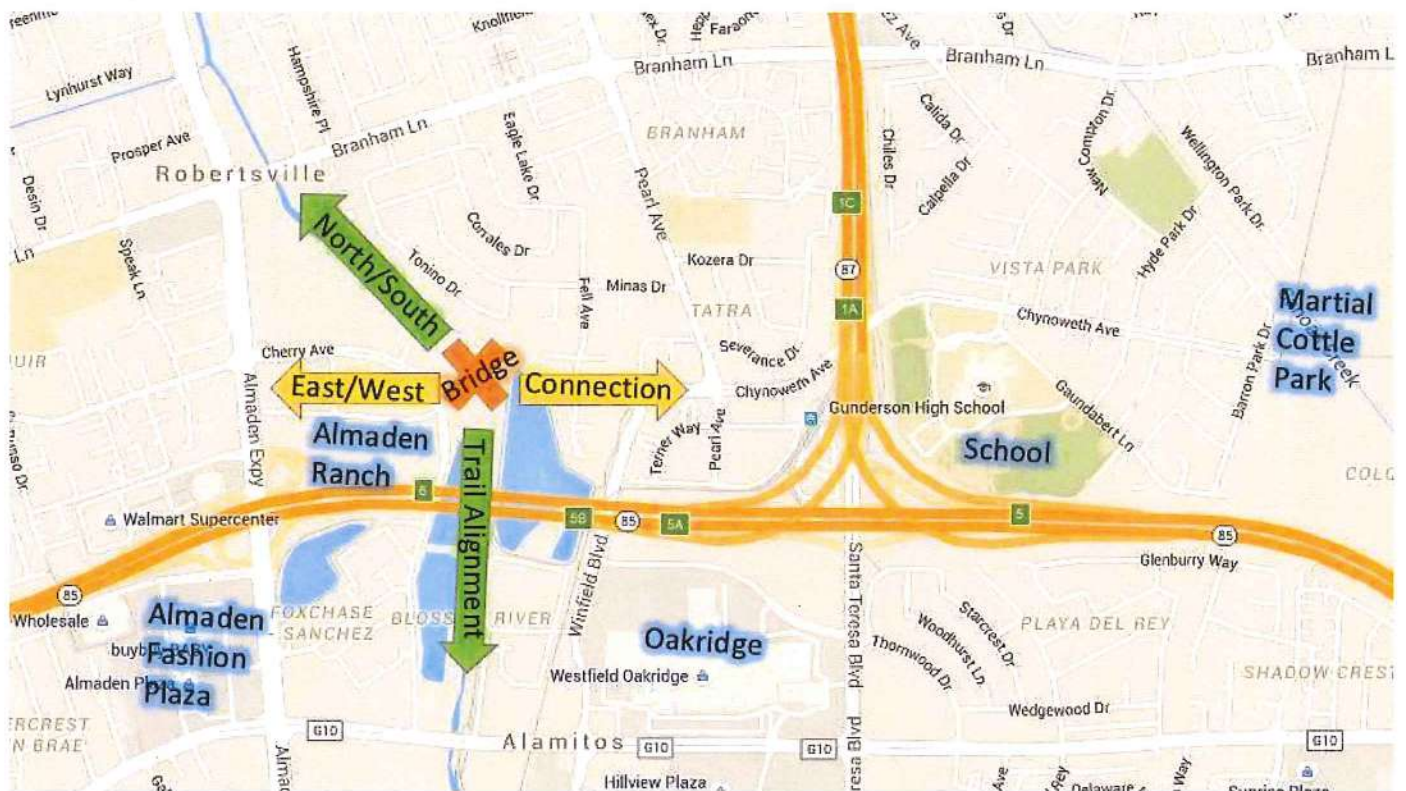
One-time       Ongoing

Proposal Description, including anticipated outcomes (describe how change would affect services for San José residents, businesses, community groups, etc.):

This proposal would fund preparation of partial construction documents for the Chynoweth Ave. Pedestrian Bridge. The Chynoweth Pedestrian Bridge would provide a pedestrian and bicycle connection over the Guadalupe River, adjacent to the Almaden Ranch shopping center. This bridge is a critical pedestrian and bicycle link.

The bridge is necessary to provide an east/west bicycle and pedestrian connection in an area where they are scarce. If a pedestrian wishes to cross from the neighborhood east of the river to the neighborhood west of the river, they would need to walk to either walk north to Branham Ln. or south to Blossom Hill Rd. Both are major streets not overly comfortable for pedestrians, but even more significantly they sit almost a mile apart. The lack of any east/west pedestrian or bicycle connection between the two is major urban barrier.

The construction of the Almaden Ranch Shopping Center and build out of Cherry Lane, which sits just east of the Guadalupe River, provide an opportunity to construct a pedestrian bridge across the river that connects Chynoweth and Cherry. This connection would overcome the existing barrier and greatly enhance mobility for pedestrians and cyclists.



In addition to facilitating east/west through travel, this bridge would also enable access to the planned Guadalupe Creek Trail north/south alignment. The trail along this section is currently being master planned; the alignment is anticipated to run along the east bank of the river. A bridge at Chynoweth would allow access to the trail for neighborhoods to the west. Once completed, the Guadalupe Trail will be one of San Jose's premier transportation and recreational amenities—facilitating access to it has great value for our residents.

It's also important to point out that with the combination of Oakridge, Almaden Fashion Plaza and Almaden Ranch, this area has become a major generator of sales tax revenue, and at the same time has also become a major generator of auto traffic (as surrounding residents well know). While there may be an argument for building auto-oriented retail in order to reap the fiscal benefits, I also believe we need to make a concerted effort to live up to our General Plan slogan of planning for people. In neighborhoods like this one that bear the burden of regional retail so that the City may benefit fiscally, we need to make an extra effort to ensure that we are maintaining quality of life for our residents. Providing pedestrian and bicycle connectivity is one way to work towards that goal.

This proposal does not ask for the full amount to construct the bridge—the approach here is to provide enough funding to begin preparation of construction documents. Projects that have construction documents completed are more attractive to granting agencies, so the hope is that we can use this initial investment to leverage grant money that will allow us to eventually complete the project.

### **Funding Source**

- Essential Services Reserve (\$2 million): \$100,000
- Other (Program/Project/Fund): \$50,000 from District 9 Parks C&C

Department or Organization: PRNS

Department or Organization Contact (list contact information for the individual that certified cost estimates contained within your recommendation):

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